Subject: Roman 1st bronzes + medallions?

Shankland, R.G.

[Denver, Co]

1935-1936

RALPH G. SHANKLAND RALPH J. O'ROURKE GEO. W. RISTINE, JR.

SHANKLAND, RISTINE & CO.
ENGINEERS
BOSTON BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

Oct. 20, 1935.

Mr. Holland Wood,

Curator, American Numismatic Society,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have heard that you will give an opinion on whether coins are genuine or not: if not, possibly you could tell me who would. Anyway I have in my collection about eight Roman 1st Bronzes and medallions, ranging from Julius Caesar to Commodus, that I would like some one who is an expert pass upon. Two are, almost certainly, Paduans and two more, I am afraid. are also imitations. The other four I really have no good reason to suspect, but still am a little doubtful.

If you do work of this kind, would you please let me know your charges and, if not, could you advise me whom to go to.

Yours Very Truly,

R. G. Shankland

R. G. Shankland.

I am a member of the American Numismatic Association.

October 23, 1935.

Mr. R. G. Shankland
414 Boston Building
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir;

If you care to send your coins on we will look them over and tell you whether we consider them genuine or not. We have one or two members here who are experts on ancient coins. Our charge would be $1.00 plus return postage.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

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DENVER, COLORADO

Oct. 27, 1935.

Mr. Howland Wood,

Curator, American Numismatic Society,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Oct. 23th received and I am sending by parcel post insured the following coins:

1. Julius Caesar, Medallion.
2. Tiberius, Medallion.
3. Claudius, G. B.
4. Galba, G. B.
5. Vitellius, G. B.
6. Faustina Sr. G. B.
7. Verus, Medallion.
8. Pertinax, G. B.

Enclosed is my check for $1.60 for your charge and return postage and I certainly appreciate your kindness in this matter since your charge is evidently nominal only.

Yours Very Truly,

R G Shankland

R. G. Shankland.

November 6, 1935.

Mr. R. G. Shankland
414 Boston Building
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir:

I am returning to you the coins by parcel post insured that you sent on a short while ago. All of these are imitations or forgeries. There is no genuine coin in the lot. We have indicated on each envelope whether it was a cast or a forgery, etc.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

RALPH G. SHANKLAND RALPH J. O'ROURKE GEO. W. RISTINE, JR.

SHANKLAND, RISTINE & CO.
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BOSTON BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

Nov. 14, 1935.

Mr. Howland Wood,

Curator, The American Numismatic Society,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

Received coins, which you examined for me, together with your notations and I have studied them at length and hope that I have added to my knowledge of Roman forgeries. However I still cannot see how you could tell that one of them was a cast, that of Faustina, Senior, and I am wondering if you would be so good as to look over some more for me. In a place like Denver there is absolutely no one whom I can question and it makes it very hard to collect Roman coins. Several people have fine collections of U. S. coins and there is at least one good collection of Greek but I do not believe that anyone knows anything about Romans. I think that if I could send on to you about fifteen Roman coins and could get your comments on them I might begin to see daylight. All but two of these I bought at auctions of two reputable dealers and probably most of them are genuine but I think that I can now detect at least three which are imitations. Would you look at these additional coins? If so, and you will let me know your charge, I will forward the coins and a check.

Yours Very Truly,

R G Shankland

R. G. Shankland.

The eight coins which you returned, I had bought from a man in Colorado Springs who has taken them back & refunded my money. I had questioned some of them when I bought them

November 18, 1935.

Mr. R. G. Shankland
Boston Building
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of November 14th we would be glad to look over your Roman coins and tell you what are good or bad. The price would be ten cents a coin with a minimum of $1.00, plus return postage. I will also try to indicate more clearly why we term pieces false or cast etc.

A cast bronze coin is fairly easy to identify as under a glass the surface is filled with little bubble-like pits, the lettering is not sharp like a struck coin and oftentimes spaces in the letters are filled up. The edge is also a fairly good way of telling. With some of the other coins, there are no originals that look quite like them. These are purely fakes and fantasies. In other cases where an actual coin has been copied with new dies, the workmanship has a different appearance. Often the figure and head may be nearly perfect but invariably the copiest falls down on the lettering.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

RALPH G. SHANKLAND RALPH J. O'ROURKE GEO. W. RISTINE, JR.

SHANKLAND, RISTINE & CO.
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BOSTON BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

Nov. 26, 1935.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,

American Numismatic Society,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am sending by parcel post insured the following Roman Coins:

1. Augustus, G.B.(I am sending this because of the rather odd longitudinal crack around the edge. Is this where a cast joins?)
2. Agrippina, Sr. G.B.
3. Caligula, "
4. " M.B.
5. Claudius, G.B.
6. Nero, "
7. Vespasian, "
8. " "
9. " M.B.
10. Titus, G.B.
11. Antinous, M.B.
12. Antoninus Pius, G.B.
13. Verus, "
14. Lucilla "
15. " "
16. Didius Julianus "
17. " " "
18. Macrinus "
19. Pupienus, Denarius

Most of these coins are in very mediocre condition and I would not bother to send them on to you except for the fact that I want to be able, at least, to get to the point where I can detect a common cast.

Enclosed is my check for $2.50 for your charge and return postage.

Yours Very Truly,

R G Shankland

R. G. Shankland

December 3, 1935.

Mr. R. G. Shankland
Boston Building
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter, check and the coins. I have been away for the past week but will get at these shortly and return them to you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

RALPH G. SHANKLAND RALPH J. O'ROURKE GEO. W. RISTINE, JR.

SHANKLAND, RISTINE & CO.
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BOSTON BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

Dec. 7. 1935.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Dec. 3th, stating that you had received my Roman coins and would examine them shortly, is at hand. The delay is of no consequence.

When you write me about them, would you kindly tell me if you also examine Greek coins and, if so, what your charge is. I have about fifteen Greek coins that I am beginning to wonder about. If there are forgeries among them, now is the time for me to know. I understand there are a lot of forgeries of Greek coins.

Yours Very Truly,

R. G. Shankland.

December 10, 1935.

Mr. R. G. Shankland
Boston Building
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

I opened up your package of coins yesterday and only hurriedly looked at them. I noted two forgeries amongst them. If you care to send on your Greek coins we will examine them also. The price would be the same.

Very truly yours,

HW:JC

Curator

RALPH G. SHANKLAND RALPH J. O'ROURKE GEO. W. RISTINE, JR.

SHANKLAND, RISTINE & CO.
ENGINEERS
BOSTON BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

December 17, 1935

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

I am sending by parcel post insured the following Greek coins:

1. Aradus - B.C. 79 -- Tetr.
2. Athens - B.C. 450 -- "
3. Athens - B.C. 450 -- "
4. Bosporus - Mithridates VI--Copper
5. Corinth - B.C. 400-338 Stater
6. Egypt - B. C. 315-311 - Alex. IV Tetr.
7. Egypt - Ptolemy I "
8. Egypt - Ptolemy X "
9. Parthia - Gotarzes "
10. Parthia - Phraates IV "
11. Rhodes - B.C. 440-330-Didrachm
12. Sidon - B.C. 275-Head of Plotemy Tetr.
13. Syracuse - B.C. 485-478-Tetr.
14. Syria - B.C. 146-140-Demetrius II "
15. Tarentum B.C. 350-Didrachm
16. Thasos B.C. 100--Tetr.
17. Velia - B. C. 400-Didrachm

What is the meaning of the X on the face? Nobody here knows.

I am enclosing check for $2.20 to cover your charge and return postage.

Yours very truly,

R G Shankland

R. G. SHANKLAND

RGS/RLF

December 27, 1935.

Mr. R. G. Shankland
Boston Building
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

We have looked over both your Greek and Roman coins and now the Christmas rush is over are sending them back to you. We are short of help for the next few days and the package may not get to you as quickly as this letter. Virtually all of your pieces are genuine - we have marked those that are forgeries and have given the reason why so that you can better understand what constitutes a false piece. The small X on the face of the Egyptian coin is simply a counter mark stamped on it in ancient days by the money changer. This was seldom done in Europe or Greece proper but in Egypt and Asiatic Greece it was a fairly common practice.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

RALPH G. SHANKLAND RALPH J. O'ROURKE GEO. W. RISTINE, JR.

SHANKLAND, RISTINE & CO.
ENGINEERS
BOSTON BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

January 3, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

The Greek and Roman coins that you examined arrived safely.

I read with much interest your comments, and I wish to thank you for your time and trouble. As I wrote you before it is very difficult in Denver to get any expert advice, and I surely appreciate your aid.

Yours very truly,

R. G. Shankland

R. G. SHANKLAND

RGS:RLF